

Fishing Basics

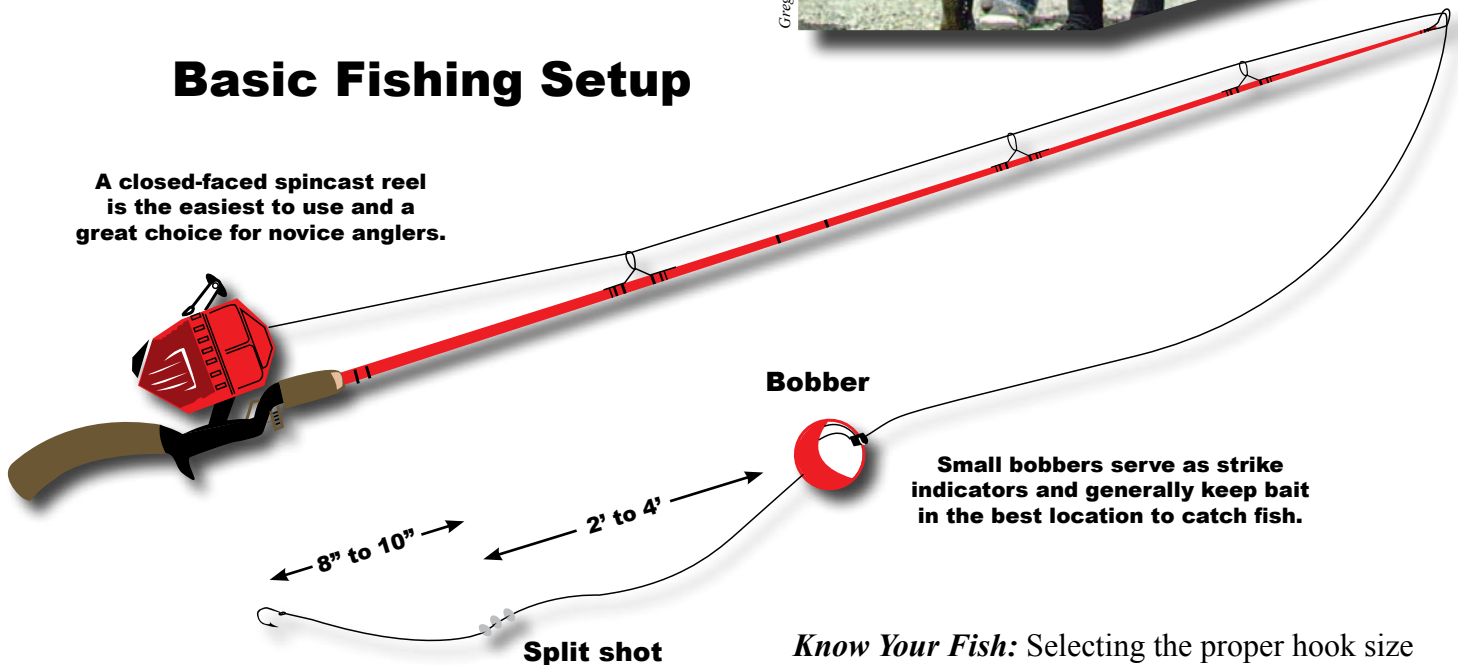
Fishing equipment can vary from a simple inexpensive rod-and-reel combination to highly specialized (and expensive) gear like fly fishing rods or line-counter reels. For the beginner, a trip to the sporting goods store can be a little overwhelming. Here are a few tips to get you and your family ready for your first Idaho fishing trip.

Start Simple: A moderately priced rod and reel combination outfit will work fine for most kinds of fishing. Look for something with a five- to six-foot medium action rod and a closed faced (push button) reel. Add to that some four- to eight-pound monofilament line, hooks in a variety of sizes, sinkers, and small bobbers and you're ready to go. See the diagram below for the basic setup.



Basic Fishing Setup

A closed-faced spincast reel is the easiest to use and a great choice for novice anglers.



Pick Your Spot: Good fishing is available across Idaho, but some spots are better for beginners and kids. Use this book to find smaller lakes and ponds close to where you live. Many of these waters are stocked with trout or have easy-to-catch bluegill lurking in the shallows. Many have picnic or park facilities, nature trails or other attractions nearby to enhance your outing.

Know Your Fish: Selecting the proper hook size and bait, and knowing how to fish it, can make all the difference. Remember that fish like bluegill and trout have small mouths, so smaller hooks (sizes 8 to 14) and bait will usually catch more of these fish. Bass and catfish have bigger mouths and tend to be more aggressive, so larger baits can be more effective. Bass and bluegill are usually found along the shoreline, but trout and catfish tend to spend their time in deeper water. Knowing just a little about fish habits can increase your chances of catching them.

